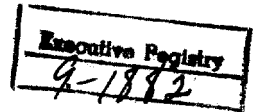


NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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The Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. Dulles:

Your advice is requested with respect to a proposal of the Office of Defense Mobilization that the National Science Foundation consider extending its registration activities to include area and language specialists. Currently the Foundation's Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel includes natural scientists, engineers, and certain related specialists.

Before undertaking an extension of Register coverage into the area and language fields, the Foundation desires to make certain that a real need exists for a Register of this character, and if so, something of the purposes to be served by it. The Foundation does not expect to make any great amount of use of such a Register to serve its own needs, and considers that its role will be principally that of acting as a peacetime and mobilization service agency to those governmental agencies more directly concerned. Since your Agency has been suggested as one likely to be interested in this subject, we would very much like your advice and counsel. The enclosed document may be helpful to your staff in reviewing the character and uses of Registers in relation to your own requirements.

Specifically, your comments on whether a Register is likely to be useful to your Agency will be greatly appreciated. If you believe it would be, then your suggestions on the character of such a Register, the general criteria for coverage of areas and languages, levels of proficiency, etc., will be most helpful. Finally, since purposes to be served are central to the kind of operation that might be established, I hope you will give us the advantage of your thinking on this matter as related to the programs of your Agency.

While we are not ready to define precisely area specialists for this purpose, it may be useful to think of them as individuals having specialized knowledge of the geography, peoples, economy, society, history, politics, government, or

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other aspects of the culture of a particular geographic area. Such knowledge might be gained either through academic type study, or from extended residence in the area. Language specialists are frequently area specialists as well, although not always so. Their knowledge of uncommon languages may be gained from academic study, from foreign residence, or from close association with others using the language.

Staff of the Register have already had some informal conversations with members of your staff. They have been most helpful in giving us a better understanding of the problem.

Your comments will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Alan T. Waterman  
Director

Enclosure

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